

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ID, PO, PT, AS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ON TIMOR

FOR CHARGE RIVES

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM SENATOR GARY HART
TO SECDEF DATED DECEMBER 16, 1975:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY: THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT
THE INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES' INVASION OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR
WAS PRECEDED BY NAVAL BOMBARDMENT AND OTHER SUPPORT
ACTIVITIES, PRESUMABLY, BY AIRLIFT. IT IS MY UNDER-
STANDING THAT THE PRINCIPAL OPERATIONAL NAVAL UNITS THAT
INDONESIA POSSESSES ARE DESTROYERS PROVIDED BY THE
UNITED STATES UNDER RESTRICTIVE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
CONTRACTS. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AND
FOR OTHER ARMS. CAN YOU TELL ME IF U.S. SUPPLIED ARMS

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WERE USED BY INDONESIA DURING THE TIMOR OPERATION AND,

IF SO, WHETHER THE CHIEF OF MAAG OR THE DEFENSE ATTACHE
KNEW IN ADVANCE OF INDONESIAN PLANS?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE. SINCERELY, GARY HART U.S.S.
END QUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM SECDEF TO SENATOR
HART DATED JANUARY 9, 1976:

QUOTE: DEAR GARY: THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR LETTER
OF 16 DECEMBER 1975 CONCERNING INDONESIA'S ARMED FORCES
DURING THE DECEMBER INTERVENTION IN EAST TIMOR.

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, U.S. OFFICIALS IN JAKARTA
HAVE INFORMED US OF THE GREAT APPREHENSION EXHIBITED BY
THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE
ADVERSE IMPACT THAT DECOLONIZATION MIGHT HAVE ON THE
SECURITY SITUATION WITHIN BOTH PORTUGUESE AND INDONESIAN
TIMOR. THE OPTIONS BEING EXAMINED BY THE INDONESIANS
WERE NOT COMPLETELY REVEALED TO US, BUT THE PROBABILITY
OF DIRECT MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS QUITE CLEAR. EXACT
PLANS WERE CLOSELY HELD BY THE INDONESIANS BUT WE DID
BECOME AWARE OF IMPENDING MILITARY OPERATIONS JUST BEFORE
THE ACTUAL LANDINGS TOOK PLACE.

ALL OF THE FACTS ARE NOT YET KNOWN AS TO DETAILS OF
THE EQUIPMENT USED. SINCE TIMOR IS A REMOTE LOCALE
HAVING NO U.S. OBSERVERS ON THE SCENE, WE MUST RELY ON
REPORTS OF INDONESIAN OPERATIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES.
THESE SOURCES INDICATE THAT AT LEAST SOME U.S. EQUIPMENT
WAS USED. WE ARE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION VERY CAREFULLY.
SINCERELY, DONALD RUMSFELD. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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